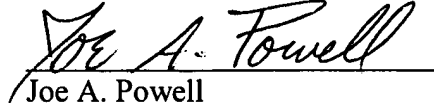


REMARKS

The rejected claims 1-26 have been cancelled. The remaining claims 27-55 were allowed by the Examiner in the Final Office Action mailed on January 5, 2004.

A formal Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe A. Powell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Joe A. Powell

Reg. No. 28,108

Noveon, Inc.

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Date: 2 MARCH 2004

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